Nepal Inter-Government Committee Meeting held in Delhi on December 10-12-1999, the attention of the Nepalese authorities was invited to the adverse impact of export of vegetable (Vanaspati) oil from Nepal to India on Indian Industry. Nepalese authorities have assured that they would implement the Treaty of Trade in its letter and spirit.

Amendment to Advocated Act

1313. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Advocates Act 1961 so as to incorporate there is cretain suggestions given by the Law Commission of India;

(b) whether the Bar Council of India have also given any suggestions in this regard and, if so, whether Government propose to discuss the same with then;

(c) whether Government are also aware that the Bar Council of India are planning to go on hunger strike for one day on this issue; and

(d) whether Government propose to settle the issue ammicably before introduction of above Bill in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) At present, there is no proposal to amend the advocates Act, 1961. The Law Commission of India has undertaken study of the Adovcates Act, 1961 and has circulated a Working Paper on its review to various institutions, including the Bar Council of India, for comments. The Law Commission has not yet finalised its report;

(b) The Bar Council of India has not yet given its comments on the Working Paper. So, question of any discussion does not arise;

(c) The Bar Council of India has observed 24th Februrary, 2000 as protest day;

(d) In view of reply to Part (a), question does not arise.

Administration of Justice

†1314. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that justice has become expensive and scarce nowadays; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so what steps have been taken by Government to make justice inexpensive and easily accessible to all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the need for speedy and inexpensive justice. Various steps have been taken by the Government in this regard. These include, *inter alia*, amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial officers, establishment of easily accessible special courts/tribunals and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

The Lok Adalats have proved an effective mechanism for alternative disputes resolution through pursuasive and conciliatory approach. The enforcement of the Legal Service Authority Act 1987 is also a step forward in the direction to make justice inexpensive. On the basis of the information received from the Natiional Legal Services Authority, total number of Lok Adalats held and number of cases disposed of by such Adalats from 1995-96 to 1998-99 were 35061 and 36,32,887 respectively.

Appointment in the constitution Review Committee

1315. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister for LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had invited Shri R. Venkatraman to head the Constitution Review Committee and he had accepted the invitation; and

(b) whether the invitation was withdrawn owing to pressure from the powerful political quarters including D.M.K?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Hindu succession Act

†1316. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the States have not made any amendment in the Hindu Succession Act to give women their right in property in Joint families; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.